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Over the winter, the Digital Collections Management and Services Division released multiple new collections online and updated others.

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This year is the 110th anniversary of Japan's 1912 gift to the U.S. of more than 3,000 cherry trees. Several Library events will mark the occasion.

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### Q&A: Elizabeth Novara

Her job as historian for women's and gender history matches perfectly with her academic training and interests.

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### On Tap

Concerts, webinars and other events at the Library of Congress in the coming week.

**LOC.GOV**



Marc Roman (left) and Dave Jung of the Exhibits Office install the new exhibition.

Shawn Miller

## 'Not an Ostrich' Photography Exhibit to Open Doors

The show is a visual journey through America's culture and history.

**BY WENDI A. MALONEY**

The title of the Library's new exhibition, "Not an Ostrich," is almost sure to leave some people scratching their heads, wondering, "What on earth could this be about?" For many of them, the Library hopes, it will inspire a trip to the Jefferson Building to find out when the show opens next Wednesday.

Those who do make the trek will discover the power of photography to communicate ideas words can't get across. Through more than 400 carefully curated pictures from the Library's holdings, the exhibition will take visitors on a journey

through America's history – from the beautiful and the heartening to the disturbing and humorous.

Along the way, they'll also learn about the Library's vast photographic collections, the art of photography and some of the women and men who have gone to extraordinary lengths to document the American scene. The pictures extend from the earliest photographic process (Robert Cornelius' 1839 daguerreotype self-portrait) to the latest in digital photography (a 2017 Harlem streetscape by Camilo José Vergara).

"Please take a moment to stop

**OSTRICH, CONTINUED ON 6**

# NOTICES

## DONATED TIME

The following employees have satisfied eligibility requirements to receive leave donations from other staff members. Questions? Contact Amy McAllister at [amcallister@loc.gov](mailto:amcallister@loc.gov).

Lynette Brown  
Avraham "Avi" Shapiro

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH RESOURCES

Skillsoft offers a curated list of courses, books, videos and training to help women cultivate a strong executive presence, invest in their growth and development and prepare for advanced opportunities.

[Click this link](#) and get ready to be inspired.

Questions? Send an email to Norma Scott at [nosc@loc.gov](mailto:nosc@loc.gov).

## SCOTT TO ADDRESS WOMEN'S FORUM

**March 31, 2 p.m.**

[Online](#)

The [Women's Forum for Growth and Networking](#) invites staff to attend the second part of a two-part workshop on leadership. Norma Scott, chief of the Talent, Learning and Development Division, will present "Exploring Your Leadership Best." Small group breakout sessions will help participants continue to develop their existing leadership acumen and create an action plan for continued development. All are welcome. Join the Zoom meeting [here](#).

Questions? Send an email to [womensforumboard@loc.gov](mailto:womensforumboard@loc.gov).

## HAVING TECHNICAL ISSUES?

The Office of the Chief Information Officer's service desk is staffed around the clock with technicians ready to help. Contact [ocioservicedesk@loc.gov](mailto:ocioservicedesk@loc.gov) or (202) 707-7727.

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# GAZETTE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

[loc.gov/staff/gazette](http://loc.gov/staff/gazette)

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### MISSION OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library's central mission is to engage, inspire and inform Congress and the American people with a universal and enduring source of knowledge and creativity.

### ABOUT THE GAZETTE

An official publication of the Library of Congress, The Gazette encourages Library managers and staff to submit articles and photographs of general interest. Submissions will be edited to convey the most necessary information.

Back issues of The Gazette in print are available in the Communications Office, LM 143. Electronic archived issues and a color PDF file of the current issue are available online at [loc.gov/staff/gazette](http://loc.gov/staff/gazette).

### GAZETTE WELCOMES LETTERS FROM STAFF

Staff members are invited to use the Gazette for lively and thoughtful debate relevant to Library issues. Letters must be signed by the author, whose place of work and telephone extension should be included so we can verify authorship. If a letter calls for management response, an explanation of a policy or actions or clarification of fact, we will ask for management response.—Ed.

### Library of Congress Gazette

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### GAZETTE DEADLINES

The deadline for editorial copy for the April 1 Gazette is Wednesday, March 23.

Email editorial copy and letters to the editor to [mhartsell@loc.gov](mailto:mhartsell@loc.gov) and [wmal@loc.gov](mailto:wmal@loc.gov).

To promote events through the Library's online calendar ([www.loc.gov/loc/events](http://www.loc.gov/loc/events)) and the Gazette Calendar, email event and contact information to [calendar@loc.gov](mailto:calendar@loc.gov) by 9 a.m. Monday of the week of publication.

Boxed announcements should be submitted electronically (text files) by 9 a.m. Monday the week of publication to [mhartsell@loc.gov](mailto:mhartsell@loc.gov) and [wmal@loc.gov](mailto:wmal@loc.gov).



# Poetry to Economics: New Collections Released Online

The Digital Collections Management and Services Division (DCMS) released multiple new collections on loc.gov this winter.

## St. Mark's Poetry Project Audio Archive

Since its founding in New York City in 1966, the St. Mark's Poetry Project has nurtured poets through live readings, lectures, workshops, publications and an emerging writers program. Nearly every notable American poet of the past 55 years has a connection with the project, whose archives the Library acquired in 2007. This release of 420 recordings from the project represents approximately 15 percent of the audio holdings in the collection.

## East Florida Papers

This Manuscript Division collection consists mainly of the records of the Spanish colonial government of east Florida from 1784 to 1821. It is mostly in Spanish with some English and documents the administration of the colony through financial, military and legal records. It is also rich in detail about the lives of Floridians.

## Hebraic Manuscripts

Work is underway to digitize all 230 of the African and Middle Eastern Division's manuscripts written in Hebrew and in cognate languages such as Judeo-Arabic, Judeo-Persian and Yiddish. These manuscripts will be made available on loc.gov thanks to the generosity of the David Berg Foundation. This initial release provides online access to two unique manuscripts, the famous 15th-century "Washington Haggadah" and an exquisite prayer book, "Order of Prayers Before Retiring at Night," from 18th-century Germany.

## Dun and Bradstreet Reference Book Collection

R.G. Dun and Company, now known as Dun and Bradstreet, was a credit reporting agency that published quarterly credit updates on merchants, manu-



A page from the famous 15th-century "Washington Haggadah."

facturers and traders in the U.S. and Canada. This initial release from the Science, Technology and Business Division collection contains 197 volumes of the reference book from 1900 to 1924, scanned from microfilm holdings. Print volumes are currently being digitized and will be added once digitization is completed.

In addition to new releases, DCMS recently announced updates to online collections and migrations.

## Motion Picture Copyright Deposit Descriptions

Roughly 19,000 items have been added to the Motion Picture

Copyright Descriptions collection. The addition, incorporating content through 1926, brings the total number of items available online to nearly 25,000. The site will continue to be updated annually as materials pass into the public domain.

## Military Legal Resources

Formerly available through the Federal Research Division website, this extensive collection, now in the holdings of the Law Library, includes material from the William Winthrop Memorial Library at the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School in Charlottesville, Virginia.

## Selected Datasets

New versions of five dataset items were added to the Selected Datasets Collection. This includes a new copy of the Simple English Wikipedia and the Grand Comics Database.

## Frederick Douglass Papers

The Frederick Douglass papers digital collection presentation has been updated with links to and from the collection's finding aid. Other improvements, including deep-zoom functionality, also have been introduced.

Find more information about DCMS releases and updates on the division's [Confluence page](#).

Questions? Contact Carlyn Osborn at [cosb@loc.gov](mailto:cosb@loc.gov). ■

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# Library to Host Cherry Blossom Festival Events

The National Cherry Blossom Festival takes place from March 20 to April 17 this year, which is the 110th anniversary of Japan's 1912 gift to the U.S. of 3,020 cherry trees. To celebrate, the Prints and Photographs Division (P&P) will host a virtual series exploring art and stories from the collections. The Library will also welcome visitors to its annual Japanese Culture Day celebration, a popular spring event for families.

## Exploring Cherry Blossom Varieties

**April 6, 7 p.m.**  
[Online](#)

Mari Nakahara of P&P will offer a close-up exploration of exquisite watercolor illustrations of the 1912 gift of cherry blossoms to increase participants' visual recognition of cherry blossoms each spring. Register [here](#).

## One Man's Life Dedicated to Peace

**April 7, 7 p.m.**  
[Online](#)

Following the gift of cherry blossom trees, former Japanese Ambassador Hiroshi Saito played an important role in fostering friendship between Japan and the U.S. in the 1930s. Nakahara will introduce the Library's collections related to Saito and discuss his efforts

to promote peace. Saito's granddaughter Tomiko Kagei will join the conversation. Register [here](#).

## Seasonal Japanese Visual Art

**April 8, 7 p.m.**  
[Online](#)

Jewel-toned woodblocks from the Library's Japanese print collection reflect recurring seasonal celebrations of springtime cherry blossoms, summer fireflies, bright autumn foliage and winter snow. Katherine Blood of P&P will highlight artwork from the 18th century to the present, including recently acquired prints, drawings and posters. Register [here](#).

## Japanese Culture Day

**April 9, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Thomas Jefferson Building

Children of all ages, families and teachers can learn about Japanese culture through reading, writing and craft-making with Japanese cultural and linguistic professionals. Books related to Japan and Japanese culture will also be on display. Special highlights include a Japanese drum presentation and a karate demonstration. [Timed entry reservations](#) are required.

For more information about the Library's events, [click here](#).



Carol M. Highsmith Archive/Prints and Photographs Division

**This Japanese lantern statue sits among cherry trees first planted in Washington, D.C., in 1912.**

For more information about other programming in Washington, D.C., visit the [National Cherry Blossom Festival website](#). ■

# Restorations of On-Site Operations Update

Library administrators announced this week that because COVID-19 infections have declined dramatically over the past two months and COVID-related conditions continue to improve nationally and locally, the Library will soon complete its restoration of on-site operations.

The transition will involve a new state of normal operations, including the expanded telework schedules approved earlier this year. Staff should now be making any necessary arrangements in anticipation that the new telework schedules will begin in April.

On Monday, the Library's food service contractor will begin limited services in the sixth-floor café in the Madison Building. Hours of operation will be from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Initial offerings will include made-to-order hot menu items from the grill for breakfast and lunch, grab-and-go cold sandwiches and salads, beverages and snacks. Socially distanced seating will be available at a reduced capacity. Staff are asked not move tables and chairs from their locations in order to maintain appropriate distancing.

The Madison Building's sixth-floor Starbucks and the Adams Building's snack bar will reopen at a later date.

In other operations news, the Library last week increased building capacity to 50 percent for visitors. In addition, as announced previously, masks are now optional for anyone entering the Library. Exceptions are those working in food services and those entering the Health Services Division office in LM G-40. They must continue to mask. Anyone else who wishes to continue wearing a mask is encouraged to do so. ■



## QUESTION AND ANSWER



Pete Duvall

### Elizabeth Novara

*Elizabeth Novara is the historian of women and gender in the Manuscript Division.*

#### **Tell us about your background.**

I grew up in a rural area in western Maryland and have lived in various places around the state, so I'm a local to this region.

I attended Saint Mary's College of Maryland as an undergraduate, majoring in history and French. Then, I earned master's degrees in history and in archives, records and information management through the history and library and information science programs at the University of Maryland (UMD), College Park.

After getting married and becoming a mom, I decided to return to graduate school at UMD part time while continuing to work full time. I earned a graduate certificate in women's studies, and I am now a Ph.D. candidate in American history focusing on women's suffrage history.

Before arriving at the Library, I was a tenured faculty curator of historical manuscripts for UMD Special Collections for over 10 years, and I held other positions at the UMD Libraries.

As a manuscripts curator, I was responsible for special collections materials relating to Maryland history and culture, historic preservation and women's studies.

#### **What brought you to the Library, and what do you do?**

The amazing women's history collections in the Manuscript Division and throughout the Library – and the fact that the Library is just amazing!

Early in my professional career, I became involved in the Women's Collection Section of the Society of American Archivists. When I realized there were jobs in the archives field focused on my specific research and writing interests, a position concentrated on women's history became a professional goal.

I was also very fortunate to have a job at UMD that allowed me to work with women's studies collections and to hone my scholarly pursuits on women's history.

My position at the Library as a manuscript historian for women's and gender history really is the perfect intersection of my expertise, training and interests. My responsibilities include acquisitions, outreach and reference related to the Manuscript Division's women's history collections.

#### **What are some of your standout projects?**

When I first arrived at the Library, I was immediately immersed in the task of being a co-curator of the exhibition "[Shall Not Be Denied: Women Fight for the Vote](#)" with Janice Ruth and Carroll Johnson-Welsh.

I was also involved in many outreach initiatives (exhibit tours, lectures, conferences, published works) related to the exhibition from 2019 through 2021.

I am also very proud to have been the Library's main point of contact for the recent acquisition of a major [addition to the National Woman's Party \(NWP\) records](#). The addition, dating from the 1860s to the 2020s, contains over 300,000 items and is [currently being processed](#) by Manuscript Division archivists and technicians.

An important scholarly resource, these materials document the efforts by the NWP to promote congressional passage of the federal women's suffrage amendment and the Equal Rights Amendment as well as to ameliorate the legal, social and economic status of women in the U.S. and around the world.

Most recently, with Manuscript Division reference librarian Edie Sandler, I published a revised and updated version of [American Women: Resources from the Manuscript Collections](#), part of the Library's larger [American Women Guide Series](#).

The guide highlights many of the women's history collections in the Manuscript Division. It was a pleasure to collaborate with Edie and division reference staff on its publication.

#### **What do you enjoy doing outside work?**

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with family; taking long walks or runs in Rock Creek Park; gardening; visiting museums and other cultural heritage institutions (especially ones that are local and off the beaten path); and, oh yeah, researching for my dissertation. When I have time, I also love baking pies with locally grown fruit.

#### **What is something your co-workers may not know about you?**

As an undergraduate, I spent my junior year studying and living abroad in Paris and traveling as much as possible. This experience had a lasting impact on my life, opening my perspectives to other cultures and creating lifelong friendships. ■

## OSTRICH, CONTINUED FROM 1

by the show. You can dip in and out, and you're sure to find at least one image that will stop you in your tracks for a closer look or bring a smile to your day," Helena Zinkham, chief of the Prints and Photographs Division (P&P), said.

Renowned photography curator Anne Wilkes Tucker organized the exhibition, whose full title is "Not an Ostrich: And Other Images from America's Library." It debuted in 2018 in Los Angeles at the Annenberg Space for Photography, which enlisted Tucker as curator. At the Library, it will open in the Jefferson Building's southwest gallery.

To put the show together, Tucker visited the Library monthly for a year and a half, working closely with photography curator Beverly Brannan and other P&P specialists to identify images to feature. The task was enormous, considering that the division holds more than 14 million photographs, and Tucker was asked to include undigitized and never-before-exhibited items among her selections.

"I just sat there, and the staff brought me pictures," Tucker told the New York Times in 2018. "I never knew what I was going to get. I looked at slides. I looked at contact sheets. I looked at prints. I looked at stereos. ... I loved it."

Tucker estimates that she looked at nearly a million images. "I would pick pictures that struck me visually," she recounted in an interview with the magazine *Hyperallergic*. First, she whittled her choices down to about 3,000, then to around 400 that she feels are "a true representation of the Library's collection."

Her selections include icons such as "[Migrant Mother](#)" by Dorothea Lange, "[American Gothic](#)" by Gordon Parks, a photo of the [Wright brothers' first flight](#) and a recently acquired portrait of a [young Harriet Tubman](#).

But they also include hundreds of images of everyday people going about their lives over the decades from West to East, North

to South. Some are joyous ([a girls soccer team celebrating a win](#)). Some are troubling ([a Black teenager being harassed at a North Carolina school](#)). And others are fascinating – some in a scary way ([a photographer perched atop an under-construction high-rise](#)).

The exhibit's signature photo, "[Not an Ostrich](#)," depicts actress Isla Bevan holding a goose – definitely not an ostrich – at a 1930 poultry show in Madison Square Garden. For those interested in actual ostriches, there's even an 1891 photograph of [a peddler of feather dusters](#), often made from ostrich plumes.

Tucker made sure to include the work of photographers of many different interests and backgrounds – more than 140 – in the exhibit.

For example, the show includes a photo of the [Apache leader Geronimo](#) by Emme and Mayme Gerhard, trailblazing early 20th-century camerawomen; [a hula-hooping grandmother](#) by Sharon Farmer, the first African American woman to serve as a White House photographer; and a [self-portrait by Will Wilson](#) of the Navajo Nation.

In support of the Annenberg show, the Library released [more than 400 photos](#) online from the exhibit, many newly digitized and rarely seen publicly before.

The Library's presentation of "Not an Ostrich" is mostly, but not exactly, the same as the Annenberg exhibit. That's because the Library's gallery does not perfectly mirror the more modern Annenberg space, and some editing was done to captions for the Library's audience, Cheryl Regan of the Exhibits Office said. She's the exhibit's director.

At the Library, the show has 11 sections mounted across 10 walls. About 70 framed reproductions are included – the exhibit consists exclusively of reproductions – accompanied by digital slide shows featuring hundreds more photographs and a 30-minute documentary, "America's Library."

Eight exhibit sections explore the categories of photographers; panoramas; portraits; icons; the built environment; arts, sports and leisure; social, political and religious life; and science and business. Another three cover the work of Vergara, Carol M. Highsmith and the Detroit Publishing Company.



Stanley Kubrick's 1950 *Look* magazine photo of men examining a mattress cushion and box spring at a furniture convention.

Stanley Kubrick/Prints and Photographs Division



The latter two share a wall, offering views of America separated by a half century or so. Highsmith has been documenting the nation's culture, people and landscapes for more than four decades now. Before her, the Detroit Publishing Company, one of the world's major image producers from 1895 to 1924, chronicled natural environments and cities across the U.S.

"Taken together, the scope and sheer tenacity applied by both Carol Highsmith and the Detroit Publishing Company in creating a visual portrait of the United States is awe inspiring," Regan said.

Besides the juxtaposition of Highsmith and the Detroit Publishing Company, Regan said she finds photos by Stanley Kubrick especially intriguing – there are two in the show. One is a [1947 photo of the bodybuilder Gene Jantzen](#) with his wife and baby son; the other is a quirky image of [three men testing a mattress](#) at a 1950 furniture convention.

Known for his movies – "Lolita," "Dr. Strangelove," "2001: A Space Odyssey," "A Clockwork Orange" – Kubrick was a staff photographer at Look magazine before he pursued filmmaking.

"It's interesting to look at young Stanley Kubrick and try to figure out, is his aesthetic getting established early on, so that it comes out in his later film work in interesting ways?" Regan said.

Personal tastes aside, Regan believes visitors of many different interests will find the exhibit exciting. "I hope that they find surprises, that it piques their curiosity," she said. "I hope they go online to see millions more images in the Library's collections."

She credits her colleagues in the Exhibits Office for their professionalism in putting the show together under difficult circumstances.

In June 2020, the Annenberg Space for Photography closed permanently, citing the pandemic, and its staff who knew the exhibit well began to depart. On top of that, many Library staff were working off-site because of the pandemic,

and the entire shipping industry was disrupted.

"We were all thrown into this new territory," Rachel Waldron said. As the office's supervisory registrar, she's responsible for the safe shipping and handling of objects on exhibit.

She said staff at Annenberg did a "fabulous job" of packing the exhibit for shipment. Boxes arrived at the Library's Cabin Branch stor-

age facility, then were moved to the Madison Building, where staff unpacked them, making sure all the exhibit pieces were intact and accounted for.

"We all worked together to get everything done," Waldron said.

A companion online "Not an Ostrich" exhibit will go live on the Library's website on March 23. ■

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## HELP MAKE COPYRIGHT RECORDS ACCESSIBLE

The User Experience team in the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) is conducting a usability study of the new Copyright Public Records System (CPRS). The system aims to provide access to copyright records in an easy-to-use online interface.

Staff are invited to help OCIO and the Copyright Office improve the system's capabilities and functionality to better meet users' needs. Consider spending 20 to 30 minutes exploring the system and sharing your insights. The study is available through March 29.

To learn more, visit the [CPRS study guide](#). To participate, [go to the study](#).

Questions? Send an email message to Carlos Alvarado of the User Experience team at [calvarado@loc.gov](mailto:calvarado@loc.gov).

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## LEARN ABOUT UKRAINE AT THE LIBRARY



You can learn a lot about Ukraine at the Library, [writes Neely Tucker on the main Library blog](#). Resources include one of the first maps to use the name "Ukraine" (in 1648); the poetry and writing of national hero Taras Shevchenko (1814-61), pictured here in a statue in Washington, D.C.; and up-to-the-minute news and analysis from the Congressional Research Service.